

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3972

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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SUBJ: INITIAL ISRAELI REACTION TO CAIRO COMMUNIQUE

1. INITIAL REACTION OF ISRAELI PRESS TO COMMUNIQUE FOLLOWING
TRIPARTITE MEETING IN CAIRO, AND JORDANIAN RESPONSE TO IT, IS
MIXED. SPLIT IS FAIRLY EVEN BETWEEN WRITERS WHO FIND ADVANTAGES FOR
ISRAEL IN WEEKEND DEVELOPMENTS AND THOS WHO SEE THEM AS SETBACK TO
PEACE EFFORTS. MIDDLE GROUP BELIEVES THAT ATTUDE OF ARAB STATES
TOWARD HUSSEIN-PLO STRUGGLE IS IN FACT STILL IN FLUX. AT AIRPORT
DEPARTURE FOR UN TODAY, FONMIN ALLON TOOK OCCASION TO COMMENT
ON COMMUNIQUE. HE REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED HOPE JORDAN WOULD NOT
CARRY OUT THREAT TO LEAVE FORTHCOMING GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE
AND SAID NEIGHBORING ARAB STATE WAS AN IMPORTANT PARTNER IN SOLVING
ME PORBLEMS.

2. JORDAN'S DECISION TO FREEZE PARTICIPATION ON POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

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IS DESCRIBED AS FAVORABLE TO ISRAEL BY SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS.

MAARIV EDITORIAL WRITES THAT FOR ISRAEL THIS SITUATION IS NOT WITHOUT ITS ADVANTAGES. " FOR ONE, THE PRIORITY QUESTION IS SOLVED: THE ONLY POSSIBLE PARTNER FOR TALKS IS EGYPT..." EDITORIAL SPECULATED THAT SADAT WILL HAVE NO CHOICE NOW BUT TO COAX THE JORDANIANS IN ORDER TO APPEASE THEM..." BUT THIS WON'T BE AN EASY TASK..." HAARETZ (GOLAN) QUOTES OBSERVERS IN JERUSALEM AS SAYING THAT THE CAIRO COMMUNIQUE IMPROVES RATHER THAN DAMAGES ISRAEL'S POSITION, SINCE ITS MAIN EFFECT IS TO SPLIT THE ARAB WORLD AND SEPARATE EGYPT FROM JORDAN.

3. A DIFFERENT VIEW IS TAKEN BY HATZOFI EDITORIAL. " WE ARE FACED WITH A COMPLICATED SITUATION IN WHICH THE POLITICAL FUTURE OF THE LIBERATED TERRITORIES (SIC) OCCUPIES A CENTRAL PLACE...THE TRIPARTITE MEETING IN CAIRO IS NOT ENCOURAGING. WE ARE FACED WITH A BASIC QUESTION: SHOULD WE RECOGNIZE MURDERERS WITH DIPLOMATIC STATUS OR NOT?...PEACE, AFTER THIS RESOLUTION, IS FARTHER AWAY THEN EVER..." HAARETZ (MARGALIT, IN US) WRITES THAT ACCORDING TO ISRAELI SOURCES IN WASHINGTON, "THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT MAY HURT PEACE PROSPECTS." ISRAELI CIRCLES MAINTAIN THAT THE COMMUNIQUE CANNOT BE TAKEN AS A SIGN OF MODERATION " BECAUSE IT IS BASED ON ESTABLISHMENT OF A PALESTINIAN STATE, WHICH WOULD BE AN UNSTABLE ELEMENT IN THE AREA. IT IS ALSO BASED ON THE DECLARED AIM OF THE PALESTINIAN CHARTER REGARDING THE ELIMINATION OF ISRAEL..."

4. SOME WRITERS STRESS FACT THAT THE JORDANIAN DECISION SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED FINAL. DAVAR EDITORIAL SAYS THAT " JORDAN'S DECISION IS...DESIGNED AS A MEANS OF PRESSURE ON THE OTHER ARAB STATES, AND A COMPROMISE FORMULA MAY EMERGE...IN VIEW OF THE GREAT NUMBER OF CONFLICTING FORMULAS, ISRAEL WILL HAVE TO EXAMINE SUCH A FORMULA VERY CAREFULLY..." YEDIDOT (ZIMUKI) WRITES THAT ACCORDING TO POLITICAL CIRCLES " THE SHARP JORDANIAN REACTION TO THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE...MAY BE A TURNING POINT IN THE POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN THE AREA. HOWEVER, IT IS ASSUMED THAT HUSSEIN HAS HARDLY SAID HIS LAST WORD AND A COMPROMISE FORMULA MAY BE FOUND..." ZIMUKI ADDS THAT HUSSEIN'S MOVES " MAY UPSET DEVELOPMENTS ALREADY PLANNED AND CERTAINLY WILL MAKE A REASSESSMENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NECESSARY. IT ALSO INDICATES SERIOUS RIFTS IN THE ARAB FRONT, THE FIRST EFFECTS OF WHICH WILL BECOME APPARENT TODAY AT DR. KISSINGER'S LUNCHEON WITH ARAB REPRESENTATIVES AT THE UN." MAARIV (GRANOTT) QUOTES WESTERN OBSERVERS AS SAYING "DR KISSINGER'S TIMETABLE FOR GENEVA MAY NOW BE IN QUESTION..."
VELIOTES

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